



The Devilish advise of Balaam

Code: 8/OT/9

(Numbers chapters 22 to 24 ; 2Peter and Revelation)

1. General Aims of the unit

Better Understanding of the Old Testament and story of prophets

2. Special aims of the lesson

1. To look at the story of Balaam and learn from it
2. To understand that not all advise given to us should be followed
3. To differentiate between good and bad advise
4. To explore in details how the old and new testament are related.

3.Outcomes

By the end of this lesson the teens are able to:

1. Remember the story of Balaam
2. Appreciate the support of God to His people in the wilderness
3. Discover that the traps of the devil are so old and nothing new
4. Defend him/her against the traps of the devil

4. Verses

Book of Revelation, it is written: *"...because you have there those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality"* (Rev.2: 14)

Also on the subject of Balaam is what the Apostle Peter mentioned: *"They have forsaken the right way and gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness"* (2Pet.2: 15), and also what the Apostle Jude mentioned: *"...they have gone in the way of Cain, have run greedily in the error o Balaam for profit, and perished in the rebellion of Korah"* (Jude 11).

Lesson

THE STORY OF BALAAM

Please read the story from Chapter 22 to end of 24

- 1) The events of this story happened when the people of Israel were in the wilderness and approached the promised land. At the time they overcame two other nations the Amorites and Bashan (Num 21).
- 2) The King of Moab “Balak the Son of Zipper” tried to find another way to overcome the Israelites without war. So he tried to get “Balaam” to curse them.
- 3) Balaam is not clearly identified, some suggested that he was a prophet, others suggested that he was a sorcerer and false prophet. But in either case he was a slave of the wages of unrighteousness (money).
- 4) The Lord who controls everything and everyone did not allow Balaam to curse the people of Israel. He emphasized that no one “prophet or sorcerer” can curse His people. It is evidence that the devil has no power and authority over us unless we allow him to enter.
- 5) Balaam blessed the people of Israel instead of cursing them. He said a prophesy about the time of the incarnation of Jesus Christ (Num 24:17), which the Maggies were waiting for, and followed the star till they entered “Bethlehem”.
- 6) Although Balaam failed to curse, yet he succeeded in giving his devilish advice to “Balak” to send the girls of “Moab” to the young men of Israel, and to attract them to commit adultery and start relations, then share them in worshipping the idols. As a result the Lord will reject His people and then it is very easy to overcome them. His plan was extremely successful, and since that time it has been a standard method to destroy the relation between anyone and God.
- 7) Explore with the teens what is the meaning of the word “adultery” and “fornication”.
- 8) Use any technique like brainstorming to highlight the steps that lead to that sin. Relate abstain from this sin to worshipping God and gaining eternal life. Discuss also how I stand and face the peer pressure of my mates to start a relation of this type.
- 9) Give examples of the “idols” now either they are physical as the “Eastern religions” or anything I love more than God and became my master; as an example, Drugs, cigarettes, bad habits,
- 10) Talk about how bad company and advice can corrupt a person if they follow that advice Numbers 31 16Look, these *women* caused the children of Israel, **through the counsel of Balaam**, to trespass against the LORD in the incident of Peor, and there was a plague among the congregation of the LORD.

Conclusion:

Choose then, your counsellors and keep away from every offensive counsel.

Whether it came from those whom you sought for advice, or from those who voluntarily advise you in your life. They might seem to sympathise with you, whereas their sympathy is not spiritual.

Bad examples causes stumbling to some.

Do not let this matter offend you, no matter how great the person was by whom you stumbled, as a result of his conduct. Do not let this change any of your principles, nor your love to God and the church. Remember that it was said about Elijah the great prophet: *“Elijah was a man with a nature like ours”* (James 5:17). Let your firm example be in the Lord Jesus and the lives of the saints. As for the people's errors, do not let them make you stumble, no matter how great those people are. Good is good no matter how people keep away from it.

As for the specific stumblings in your life, examine them and know their causes and keep away from them. For repentance does not agree with stumblings.

Search for the reasons which make you stumble and lead you to sin. What are they? Are they close to you? How can you keep away from them? Are they within you, or do they come to you from others? Keep away from these stumblings as much as you can, so that they don't influence you. Escape from friends who drag you down, and make you lose your spirituality. Repeat regularly what we say in the Lord's prayer: *“Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil”*.